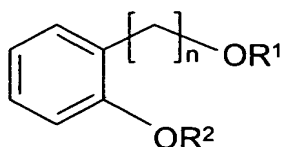


Claims

1. Use of a compound having formula (I)

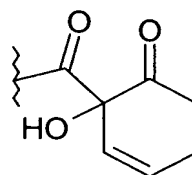


(I)

wherein:

$n = 1-10$,

R^1 is selected from the group comprising: H, branched or unbranched C_1-C_{14} alkyl, branched or unbranched C_2-C_{14} alkenyl, branched or unbranched C_2-C_{14} alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl alkyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, substituted or unsubstituted monosaccharide, SO_3H , SO_3Na ,



$(CH_2)_{1-10}OH$, COR , $SiRR'R''$, PO_3HNa , PO_3Na_2 and

wherein R , R' , R'' are mutually independently selected from the group comprising: H, C_1-C_{14} alkyl, C_2-C_{14} alkenyl, C_2-C_{14} alkynyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, substituted or unsubstituted phenyl and heterocyclic ring,

and

R^2 is an enzymatically cleavable substituent or is selected from the group comprising: H, branched or unbranched C_1-C_{14} alkyl, branched or unbranched C_2-C_{14} alkenyl, branched or unbranched C_2-C_{14} alkynyl, cyclohexyl,

cyclopentyl, substituted and unsubstituted phenyl or substituted or unsubstituted aryl alkyl

for the lightening of skin and/or hair.

2. Use according to claim 1, wherein for the compound having formula (I):

5 R^2 is selected from the group of enzymatically cleavable substituents comprising: SO_3H , SO_3Na , $(CH_2)_{1-10}OH$, COR , PO_3HNa and PO_3Na_2 ,

wherein R , R' are mutually independently selected from the group comprising: H , C_1-C_{14} alkyl, C_2-C_{14} alkenyl, C_2-C_{14} alkynyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, substituted or unsubstituted phenyl and heterocyclic ring.

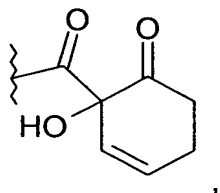
10 3. Use according to claim 1, wherein in formula (I):

R^2 is selected from the group of enzymatically cleavable, substituted or unsubstituted monosaccharides, comprising: glucose, mannose or galactose.

4. Use according to one of the preceding claims, wherein in formula (I):

$$n = 1-4,$$

15 R^1 is selected from the group comprising: H , branched or unbranched C_1-C_{14} alkyl, branched or unbranched C_2-C_{14} alkenyl, branched or unbranched C_2-C_{14} alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, substituted or unsubstituted monosaccharide, $(CH_2)_{1-10}OH$, COR , SR ,

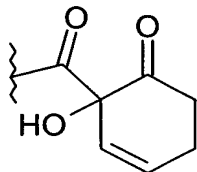


20 wherein R , R' are mutually independently selected from the group comprising: H and C_1-C_{14} alkyl.

5. Use according to claim 1, wherein in formula (I):

n = 1-4,

R¹ is selected from the group comprising: H, branched or unbranched C₁-C₁₄ alkyl, branched and unbranched C₂-C₁₄ alkenyl, branched or unbranched C₂-C₁₄ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, substituted or unsubstituted monosaccharide, (CH₂)₁₋₁₀OH, COR, SR,



PO₃RR' and , wherein R, R' are mutually independently selected from the group comprising: H and C₁-C₁₄ alkyl,

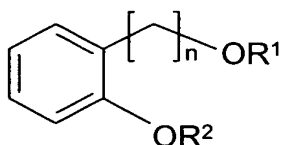
and

R² is selected from the group comprising: H, branched or unbranched C₁-C₁₄ alkyl, branched or unbranched C₂-C₁₄ alkenyl, branched or unbranched C₂-C₁₄ alkynyl and substituted or unsubstituted phenyl.

6. Use of saligenin, fragilin, populin, tremuloidin, salicortin, 2-O-acetyl salicortin or tremulacin for the lightening of skin and/or hair.

7. Use of salicin for the lightening of skin and/or hair.

8. Cosmetic or therapeutic formulation containing an amount having a lightening effect on skin and/or hair of the compound having formula (I)

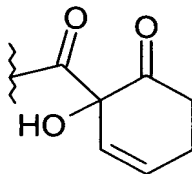


(I)

wherein: n = 1-10,

R¹ is selected from the group comprising: H, branched or unbranched C₁-C₁₄ alkyl, branched or unbranched C₂-C₁₄ alkenyl, branched or unbranched C₂-C₁₄

alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl alkyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, substituted or unsubstituted monosaccharide, SO_3H , SO_3Na , $(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}\text{OH}$, COR ,



SiRR'R'' , PO_3HNa , PO_3Na_2 and ,

- 5 wherein R , R' , R'' are mutually independently selected from the group comprising: H , $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{14}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{14}$ alkenyl, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{14}$ alkynyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, substituted or unsubstituted phenyl and heterocyclic ring,

and

- 10 R^2 is an enzymatically cleavable substituent or is selected from the group comprising: H , branched or unbranched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{14}$ alkyl, branched or unbranched $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{14}$ alkenyl, branched or unbranched $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{14}$ alkynyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, substituted and unsubstituted phenyl or substituted or unsubstituted aryl alkyl

for the lightening of skin and/or hair.

- 15 9. Cosmetic or therapeutic formulation containing an amount having a lightening effect on skin and/or hair of saligenin, salicin, fragilin, populin, tremuloidin, salicortin, 2-O-acetyl salicortin or tremulacin.